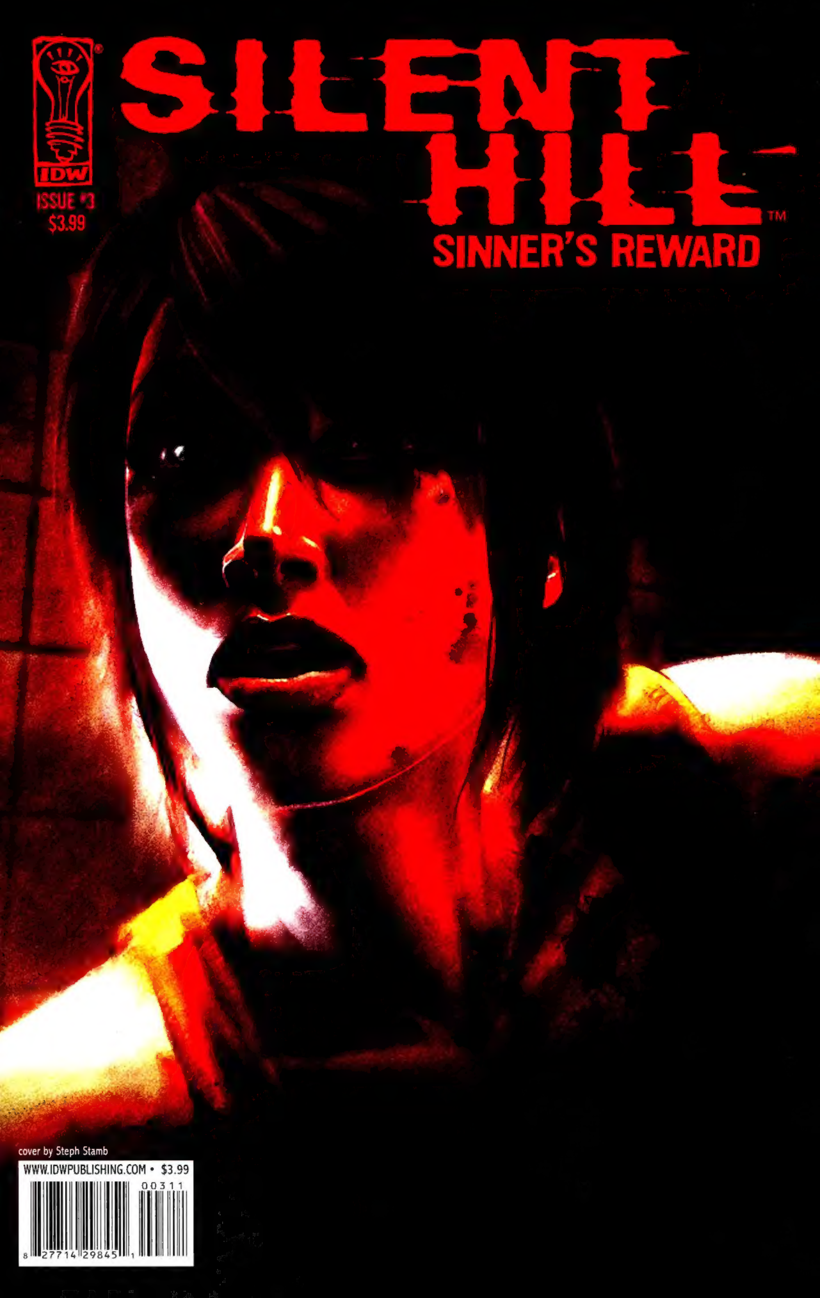
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SINNER'S REWARD
cover by Steph Stamb
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SILENT HILL
SINNER'S REWARD

story by **Tom Waltz**

art by **Steph Stamb**

letters by **Chris Mowry**

edits by **Chris Ryall**

Hitman Jack "The Pup" Stanton and his lover, Jill Conway, are on the run from Jill's husband, Finn Conway, a dangerous mob boss. Finn sends his goons after the fugitive couple, and after a bloody gun battle, Jill is kidnapped and taken to Silent Hill, with Jack in hot pursuit. In Silent Hill, Jack discovers terrors beyond his worst nightmares, not to mention a psychotic and hobbling Jill. Losing her once again inside the strange town, Jack continues his search, only to find a mysterious [illegible] girl caught in the middle of a [illegible] bizarre crucifixion...

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BEFORE.
MONSTERS.
FIRST THIS PLACE WAS *EMPTY*, AND NOW THERE'S FUCKIN' *MONSTERS* EVERYWHERE.
AND THAT'S NOT *ALL*.
PLEASE, MISTER, OVER *HERE*!
SAVE ME!

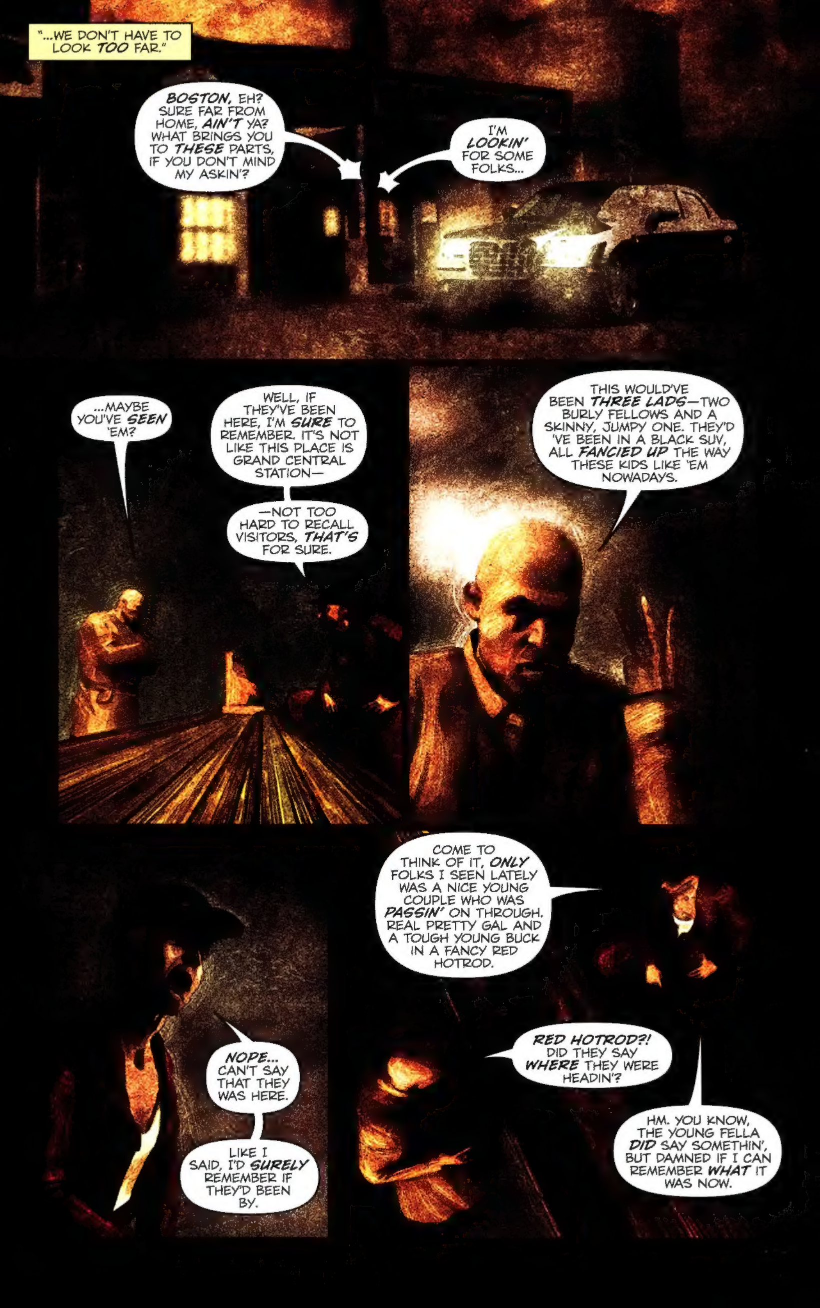
THESE... THINGS... WHATEVER THEY ARE, THE TOWN'S FULL OF 'EM. SOME KIND OF MONSTER, LIKE I SAID BEFORE, OR MAYBE...
GET AWAY FROM HER, GODDAMMIT! GET—
...SOMETHING WORSE.
RAAAAARGH!
SHIT.
THOSE FACES... I KNOW THEM. BOBBY JOHNSON FROM THE BRAWLY GANG... AND THAT DIPSHIT ATTORNEY, KAZ MIHOTO. BUT THEY'RE DEAD—
—I KNOW... I KILLED 'EM BOTH.
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MISTER...
...DO SOMETHING!
YEAH... SOMETHING.

I'LL DO SOMETHING.
THE ONLY SOMETHING I KNOW.
BWOOM
CLICK CLICK
THE SOMETHING I WAS BORN FOR.
BWOOM
CLICK CLICK
BWOOM
M-MISTER, ARE YOU...
...OKAY?
SNAP
OH...

...NO.
SWIP
SWIP
SWIP
TH-THANK YOU.
YEAH, WELL...
...DON'T MENTION IT, KID.

YOU GOT A NAME?
YEAH... SARA.
JACK.
SO, SARA, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
I MEAN, I WAS WITH MY MOM AND DAD, AND EVERYTHING WAS FINE, AND THEN THERE WAS THIS TERRIBLE SIREN AND IT WAS LIKE THINGS JUST TURNED ALL BLACK, YOU KNOW, AND I WAS LOST, AND THEN...
...AND THEN I WAS ALL ALONE AND TIED TO THAT POLE. THEN I SAW YOU, AND... AND...
...OH, GOD, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE ARE MY PARENTS? WHAT'D I DO?
OH, GOD... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
CALM DOWN, SARA.
IF IT'S ANY HELP, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IT'S HAPPENIN' TO. I'M LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE, TOO, AND THAT'S TURNIN' OUT TO BE ONE CRAZY-ASS MESS.
WHATEVER'S GOIN' ON, I DON'T THINK IT'S HER OR YOU OR ME CAUSIN' IT...
...I THINK IT'S THIS TOWN.

WHATEVER IT IS, THIS AIN'T NO PLACE TO BE UNARMED, THAT'S FOR SURE.
YOU EVER USE ONE OF THESE, KID?
NO.
NEVER?
NO, I MEAN... NO GUNS. I WON'T TAKE IT. I...
...I HATE THEM. NO GUNS.
SARA, THERE'S WAY WORSE THINGS IN THIS PLACE TO BE AFRAID OF THAN THIS PISTOL. C'MON, IT'LL BE FINE. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO U—
I SAID, NO GUNS, JACK.
SUIT YOURSELF, KID. I JUST HOPE I CAN COVER BOTH OUR ASSES IF ANYMORE OF THESE GODDAMN THINGS POP OUT OF THE WOODWORK.
C'MON, LET'S GO. MY FRIEND TOOK OFF THIS WAY—LET'S GO FIND HER AND MAYBE YOUR FOLKS, TOO.
I JUST HOPE...
'KAY.


"...WE DON'T HAVE TO LOOK TOO FAR."
BOSTON, EH? SURE FAR FROM HOME, AIN'T YA? WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THESE PARTS, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKIN'?
I'M LOOKIN' FOR SOME FOLKS...
...MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN 'EM?
WELL, IF THEY'VE BEEN HERE, I'M SURE TO REMEMBER. IT'S NOT LIKE THIS PLACE IS GRAND CENTRAL STATION—
—NOT TOO HARD TO RECALL VISITORS, THAT'S FOR SURE.
THIS WOULD'VE BEEN THREE LADS—TWO BURLY FELLOWS AND A SKINNY, JUMPY ONE. THEY'D 'VE BEEN IN A BLACK SUV, ALL FANCIED UP THE WAY THESE KIDS LIKE 'EM NOWADAYS.
NOPE... CAN'T SAY THAT THEY WAS HERE.
LIKE I SAID, I'D SURELY REMEMBER IF THEY'D BEEN BY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, ONLY FOLKS I SEEN LATELY WAS A NICE YOUNG COUPLE WHO WAS PASSIN' ON THROUGH. REAL PRETTY GAL AND A TOUGH YOUNG BUCK IN A FANCY RED HOTROD.
RED HOTROD?! DID THEY SAY WHERE THEY WERE HEADIN'?
HM. YOU KNOW, THE YOUNG FELLA DID SAY SOMETHIN', BUT DAMNED IF I CAN REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS NOW.

LOOK, OL' TIMER, NOW'S A REAL GOOD TIME TO PUT THAT MEMORY YOU'VE BEEN BOASTIN' ABOUT TO WORK FOR YA.
IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT YOU REMEMBER QUICK WHERE THOSE TWO SAID THEY WAS GOIN', DO YA UNDERSTAND?
S-SURE... SURE, I UNDERSTAND. NO... NO NEED FOR GUNS.
THEY, UH... THEY WERE HUNGRY. THAT'S RIGHT... HUNGRY AND LOOKIN' FOR A PLACE TO EAT. SO I TOLD THEM WHERE THE CLOSEST PLACE IS TO GRAB SOME GRUB.
AND WHERE MIGHT THAT BE, THEN?
THAT WOULD BE SILENT HILL.
SILENT HILL, EH? HOW FAR FROM HERE?
JUST A WAYS UP THE NEXT EXIT. GET ON THAT ROAD AND YOU'LL FIND IT...
...GUARANTEED.
RIGHT, THEN, THANKS FOR THE HELP, MATE.
DON'T MENTION IT...
...THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR.

YOU SAY YOU LOST A FRIEND? IS SHE, LIKE, YOUR GIRLFRIEND, OR SOMETHIN'?
OR SOMETHIN'. HER NAME'S JILL.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TOGETHER?
NOT LONG ENOUGH.
HOLD UP. THERE'S SOMETHIN' IN FRONT OF US.
WHA... WHAT ARE THEY?
NOT SURE. I SAW THEM BEFORE, JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN. THOUGHT THEY WERE WOLVES OR SOMETHIN', BUT AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, I AIN'T SO SURE.
C'MON, LET'S GET THE HELL OFF THE STREET UNTIL THOSE BASTARDS GO AWAY. THERE'S A BUILDING RIGHT OVER HE—
WHAT?
LAST TIME I SAW JILL, SHE WAS DRESSED LIKE A NURSE FOR SOME REASON. SOMETHIN' TELLS ME...

...WE'RE GONNA FIND HER *HERE*.

NOW.
I THINK ABOUT THE THINGS SHE SAYS ABOUT ME, ABOUT MY LIFE, AND I WONDER...
...I WONDER HOW IT'S COME TO THIS.
I WONDER WHO'S TO BLAME.
I DIDN'T WANT THIS, YOU KNOW... THIS LIFE. THE GUNS AND THE KILLIN'...
...THAT WAS MY OLD MAN'S DREAM FOR ME, NOT MINE.
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, JACK?
ME? I THINK YOU LIKE THE POWER, JACK... THE KILLING, THE GUNS, THE BLOOD-STAINED PROFITS
YES, THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOUR FATHER'S DREAM ONCE...
...BUT YOU MADE IT YOUR OWN NIGHTMARE REALITY A LONG TIME AGO.
HE OPENED A DARK AND DEADLY DOOR FOR YOU, IT'S TRUE...

"...BUT IT WAS YOU WHO SHUT IT BEHIND YOU, JACK."
BEFORE.
SLAM
CHRIST, AND I THOUGHT IT WAS BAD OUTSIDE
ARE... ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHERE YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS?
KID, I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I AIN'T SURE OF NOTHIN' AT THIS POINT.
ALL I KNOW IS JILL WAS WEARIN' A NURSE'S SUIT JUST BEFORE SHE TOOK OFF ON ME, AND SHE WAS YELLIN' SOMETHIN' ABOUT HAVIN' TO HELP SOMEONE.
SEEMS TO ME THIS'D BE THE PLACE WHERE SHE'D GO TO DO THAT... NOT THAT I'D EVER WANT TO BE BROUGHT TO THIS DUMP IF I WAS SICK.
DAMN... ALL THESE DOORS ARE FRIGGIN' LOCKED.
WAIT. DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT?
SHH... LISTEN
NOOOOO'
ABOVE US... SOMEONE'S SCREAMIN'.
JILL!

HERE'S SOME STAIRS!
C'MON!
BUT I DON'T HEAR ANYTH—
JACK, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS RIGHT?
THIS WAY!
NOOOOOOO!
NEXT FLOOR UP. I HEAR HER!
2F
NOOOOOO!
THERE! THROUGH THAT DOOR!
JACK, MAYBE WE SHOULD TURN BACK. MAYBE—
JILL! I'M COMIN', BABY! I'M—
MY, GOD.

OH, JACK, I TRIED... TRIED SO HARD TO MAKE THINGS BETTER, BUT...
...IT WAS TOO LATE. TOO LATE.
OH, GOD, JACK... WE'RE TOO LATE.

FUCKIN' HELL...
...THING'S BLOODY DEAD.
DAMMIT!
AH, WELL...
...'LEAST I KNOW I'M IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

JILL... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I TRIED, JACK... TRIED TO MAKE IT ALL RIGHT. TRIED SO HARD...
...BUT IT WAS TOO FUCKING LATE!
JILL, BABY, PLEASE... PUT THAT THING AWAY AND CALM DOWN. WE CAN FIX THIS. JUST—
FIX THIS?!
ONLY ONE THING IS GOING TO FIX THIS, JACK, AND IT'S NOT CALM... IT'S NOT CALM!
JACK, WE SHOULD GO. SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE.
YOU THINK?
ALL THESE DEAD PEOPLE—
PEOPLE?! THESE MONSTERS?
SEE... SHE KNOWS. SHE UNDERSTANDS...
...SHE SEES.

FUCK, JILL, WOULDJA SHUT UP WITH THAT CRAZY TALK FOR JUST A MINUTE?! I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT!
YOU DON'T NEED TO THINK... JUST SEE. SEE WHAT'S AROUND YOU. IT'S ALL HERE, FOR YOU AND ME TO FINALLY SEE.
WHAT'S HERE, JILL? WHAT THE FUCK'S HERE?!
THE TRUTH, JACK...
...THE WHOLE BLOODY TRUTH.

SARA, STAY AWAY FROM THOSE THINGS, GODDAMMIT!
I HAVE TO, JACK. I HAVE TO S—
OH... NO
OH, GOD.. MOM... DAD...
..PLEASE, GOD... NO.

SARA, THESE AIN'T YOUR *PARENTS*, DAMMIT! THESE ARE MONS—
OH... SHIT.
NOW, YOU SEE, DON'T YOU? *NOW* YOU REMEMBER.
THIS TOWN KNEW *ALL ALONG*, JACK... KNEW WE WERE *SPOILED*. TAINTED. CURSED.
AND NOW *SHE* KNOWS, TOO.
IT... IT WAS YOU...

...IT WAS *YOU!*
SARA, I DIDN'T KNO—
TIME FOR *PAIN,* JACK..
WEEEEOOOOWEEEEOOOO
GAH! THAT... SOUND!
WEEEEOOOOWEEEEOOOO
NNNNG!
"...TIME TO RIDE THE PAIN THE *SIREN* BRINGS. RIDE IT AND *REMEMBER...*"
UNNHN!
WEEEEOOOOWEEEEOOOO
"...REMEMBER WHAT *FINALLY* BROUGHT YOU *HERE.*"

...'SIDES, I GOT ONE MORE JOB TO DO THIS WEEK. FINN'S BEEN CATCHIN' HEAT FROM THAT DUMBASS COUNCILMAN LINWOOD...
...FINN WANTS THE HEAT TURNED OFF AND HE'S GONNA PAY ME PLENTY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
FWIP FWIP
WHO...?
FWIP

UNF... MY HEAD.
JILL!
IT'S OVER, JACK. FOR US... OVER.
STOP IT, JILL. NOTHIN'S OVER.
...TIME TO PAY UP.
NO, SHE'S RIGHT, JACK. FUN'S OVER FOR YOU TWO...
TO BE CONCLUDED...

THE STORY CONCLUDES IN ISSUE #4 OF
SILENT HILL™
IDW

IDWords
News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

JOHN BYRNE'S LATEST *ASSIGNMENT* ARRIVES IN MAY!

The esteemed creator launches his first-ever Star Trek miniseries

Among the few living and working comic book creators who really do need no introduction, **John Byrne** is an individual near the top of that very short list. And yet, despite decades of phenomenal success that has seen him help revive characters from the X-Men to Superman, as well as debut runs on his own wildly successful creations like ***John Byrne's Next Men***, the lifelong *Star Trek* fan has never actually put pen to a full *Star Trek* comic book until coming to IDW.

After getting a warm-up with the *Alien Spotlight: Romulans* book released in February, Byrne has opened up the afterburners for his first-ever full-fledged *Star Trek* series, ***Star Trek: Assignment Earth***. Part of IDW's Star Trek: Second Stage line of titles that feature major storytelling talent for its second year of publishing Starfleet stories, the book takes the "back-door" pilot seen as the season two finale of The Original Series and, 40 years later, gives life to the spin-off that never came to pass. Byrne took a break from his drawing table to talk to IDW about his new *Star Trek* work, reviving his older *Next Men* comics, and the joys of watching young Teri Garr.

- Angel: After the Fall #6
- Badger Saves the World #5
- Doctor Who #4
- Doctor Who Classics #5
- Everybody's Dead #2
- Fallen Angel #26
- FX #2
- Gene Simmons Zipper #6
- Ghost Whisperer: The Haunted #2
- Locke & Key #3
- The Executioner: The Devil's Tools #1
- The Mummy Movie Prequel: The Rise and Fall of Xango's Ax #1
- Rogue Angel: Teller of Tall Tales #3
- Silent Hill: Sinner's Reward #3
- Speed Racer: Chronicles of the Racer #4
- Star Trek: The Next Generation: Intelligence Gathering #4
- Star Trek: New Frontier #2
- Star Trek: Year Four: The Enterprise Experiment #1
- The Transformers: Best of the UK: Dinobots #6
- The Transformers: Best of the UK: Space Pirates #2
- Transformers Movie Sequel: The Reign of Starscream #1

- Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy, Vol. 4
- CVO: African Blood TPB
- Gene Simmons Dominatrix TPB
- Gene Simmons House of Horrors TPB
- Speed Racer: Chronicles of the Racer TPB
- Speed Racer/Racer X: The Origins Collection TPB

APRIL RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

The Executioner: The Devil's Tools #1

Star Trek: Year Four: The Enterprise Experiment #1

Angel: After the Fall #6

The Mummy Movie Prequel: The Rise and Fall of Xango's Ax #1

Transformers Movie Sequel: The Reign of Starscream #1

Comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, gripes, etc. are appreciated. Feel free to send any correspondence to letters@idwpublishing.com or IDWords, 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92109. You can also join in the hullabaloo on our message boards at idwpublishing.com.

IDW: Decades into the comics biz, and this is the first time you've sharpened your pencil for a full-fledged Star Trek series. How did that come about?

JB: The most prosaic way possible—I was asked! IDW Editor-in-Chief Chris Ryall had contacted me about the *Next Men* reprints, and threw out the idea of my doing some *Star Trek* stuff. I protested that my likenesses were not up to the task, but he is a persistent little bugger (name that quote!) and suggested maybe one of the Alien Spotlight books, where likenesses would not be an issue. Thus, *Romulans*. Then Chris asked if there was anything else I'd be interested in doing in that vein, and I asked about Gary Seven.

IDW: That's a pretty obscure character. What about him caught your attention? It was that awesome ballpoint pen, right?

JB: That, and Teri Garr! No, seriously, when I first saw the episode, at the end of the second season of The Original Series, I was still naive enough not to recognize it as a pilot. I saw it in much the same light as Harry Mudd—a character/situation being introduced that would turn up again in future episodes. When no such episodes were forthcoming, I thought about doing some of my own, though I didn't really consider ever actually having a place to put 'em!

IDW: Still, it's an incredibly original idea to do a comics version of the Gary Seven TV spin-off that never came to pass. Skipping a year forward with each issue will also be unconventional. In fact, it's probably the most unusual Star Trek *title ever published. Was that what you set out to do—"go where no miniseries has gone before"?*

JB: The year skips are a minor element, really. I've said elsewhere that unless the reader is really hip to the history of the period, they will most likely not get any sense of how much time is passing. Mostly I'm doing it because I want to start close to the original episode, which was 1968, but one of the stories I came up with involves Nixon's visit to China, which was 1972. But, really, to a casual reader, I'll bet if I said there was no more than a month between issues there would be nothing—aside from Roberta's hair, which will be different in every issue—to clue them in to anything otherwise.

IDW: With the stories set in the 1960s and '70s, how will you keep it connected to Trek, so that fans will see that it's different, yet still familiar?

JB: Well, there's a big honkin' *Star Trek* in the logo, for a start! Also, the second issue "crosses over" with an actual episode of The Original Series. I'd thought about doing this in the third issue, but the Trekkie inside me couldn't wait.

IDW: Aha, a Trekkie, not a Trekker. That's a sure sign of an old-school fan. If you've been such a fan since you were a kid, why did it take you so long to decide to do a series?

JB: Mostly, the likenesses issue. Much as I love *Star Trek*, I did not want to face the nightmare of licensed projects again. Having actors sign off on their images is always a pain. Their mirrors don't work the same way that cameras do!

IDW: There are very few people who have drawn both Star Trek *and the* X-Men *without having actually drawn* "Star Trek/X-Men". *There's you, Dave Cockrum, and I think Jim Lee did a* Voyager *cover once. That leaves you uniquely qualified to talk about* Trek *crossovers. If you could do a* Star Trek *crossover however you'd like, with any other fictional source, what would it be?*

JB: This is nothing major, but since I started working on *Assignment Earth*, I have found myself thinking a crossover with Roddenberry's other, similarly themed busted pilot, *The Questor Tapes*, would be fun.

IDW: Let's talk about a few of your other projects. Your series FX with Wayne Osborne (also published by IDW) is gloriously retro, a superhero book that feels like it's straight out of the late 1970s or early '80s. Is that one of your favorite eras in comics?

JB: No, my favorite is a bit earlier! But it's definitely Wayne's. I think it's a disservice to call the book "retro," though. It's definitely not grim and gritty—or "gloomy," as Dave Gibbons has pointed out the "grim and gritty" books really are. It's old-time superheroics, much in the vein of Stan and Jack's *Fantastic Four*, or Stan and Steve's *Spider-Man*, but it has its own set of modern sensibilities, too. There'll be no doubt reading it that this is a book set in the 21st century, intended for a 21st century audience.

IDW: IDW is also going to reprint your entire Next Men *run, along with* 2112, Babe *and* Danger, Unlimited. *Is there the possibility of a new* Next Men *series on the horizon? This is just a courtesy question, mind you, since I have already decided for you that your answer will be "yes."*

JB: If it looks like *Next Men* can be done as something other than a vanity project, I will certainly do it. The series has a definite ending—I even know the last line!—and I would very much like to shake those 20 or so issues out of my head some day!

IDW: Any possibility of another Star Trek *miniseries after* Assignment Earth? *A more traditional Kirk-era story, or something set in* The Next Generation?

JB: Doing *Romulans* and *Assignment Earth* has opened a door in my head that has been closed—or at least pushed to close—for a long time. All kinds of stuff seems to be trying to spill out. If *Assignment Earth* goes over well, I'd like to do more of that, plus there is another potential "spin-off" that Chris and I touched on briefly. Aside from a few *Voyager* episodes, though, there really isn't any *Star Trek* for me after The Original Series, and unless I'm allowed to go check out some of the other ships of the fleet, visiting that period brings up the old spectre of likenesses again!

IDW

My name's Ed. I get to scan. YAY! Better than you lady! YAY! I scanned my butt. YAY!
YAY! DCP YAY! Hey lady, say it with me. YAY DCP YAY!!!!
YAY! Oroboros teamed with me! YAY! He scanned his butt too! YAY. YAY DCP YAY!
DCP